

Modernization Act. It is a simple correction that extends to the permanent drug benefit the same protection for Federal assistance program eligibility provided in the transitional drug benefit. I encourage Members to support this bill.

Congress and the Bush Administration have repeatedly affirmed that low-income seniors should not have to choose between food and prescription drugs. Our actions as a body have not lived up to that commitment. Congress should act quickly to fix this flaw in the Medicare Modernization Act so that the most vulnerable among us are not faced with an impossible choice.

CONGRATULATING ARACELI
LOZANO, SMALL BUSINESS AD-
VOCATE WOMEN CHAMPION OF
THE YEAR

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 7, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Araceli Lozano, Small Business Advocate Women Champion of the Year.

Araceli is the Director of the Laredo Development Foundation Small Business Development Center (SBDC), which was established to provide vision and leadership to develop, encourage, promote and protect the business interests of the Laredo metropolitan area.

As Director, Araceli works to provide opportunities, motivation, and guidance to current and potential small business owners. Under the stewardship of Ms. Lozano, the SBDC team has achieved an outstanding track record, meeting and exceeding each counseling and training goal. Araceli has consistently reached out to small business owners in rural communities, providing direction to enhance the business skills of these blossoming entrepreneurs.

I am honored to recognize Araceli Lozano as the Small Business Advocate Women Champion of the Year. Araceli's dedication and devotion to the growth and success of small businesses is truly admirable.

CONGRATULATING ALICIA
ESPINOZA, SMALL BUSINESS AD-
VOCATE FINANCIAL CHAMPION
OF THE YEAR

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 7, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Alicia Espinoza, Small Business Advocate Financial Champion of the Year.

Alicia works as a Commercial Loan Officer for the Commerce Bank where she makes and services all types of loans. With over 9 years banking experience, Ms. Espinoza offers clients a wealth of banking knowledge and financial understanding.

Alicia strives to provide personalized attention to her customers. She knows them all by their names, not their account numbers. By offering each customer individualized consideration and tailored advice, she is able to maxi-

mize the success of her business transactions. Alicia works hard to serve the needs of her clients, often working beyond a banker's traditional hours.

I am honored to recognize Alicia Espinoza as the Small Business Advocate Financial Champion of the Year. Alicia's exceptional efforts continue to perpetuate the economic and social development of her community.

THE COMMENCEMENT MESSAGE OF DR. DAVID JEFFERSON

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 7, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the success and contributions of Dr. David Jefferson, Sr. A graduate of Grambling State University, David has been a role model and example for a generation of Grambling students and others who have met him.

In the last thirty years, David has risen up the ranks in the business community and has developed an impressive reputation amongst his colleagues as a fair and wise business leader. He currently serves as the President and CEO of JNET Communications, LLC and is a member of the board of directors of SBLI USA Mutual Life Insurance Company, Inc. He has succeeded in bringing the talents of a young Louisianan and the lessons of a noteworthy academic institution into the decision-making of two major corporations.

Beginning in 2003, JNET has provided a suite of technology and technology-related services to telephone companies, cable television systems, and other businesses. The company has created a number of job opportunities in minority and low-income communities. Through its Up the Ladder training program, it has trained individuals in these communities to work as call center experts, customer acquisition and expansion experts, and maintenance and installation experts. David has been successful in managing an organization that creates jobs for the community and the people that surround him.

Dr. Jefferson is also a senior pastor of the Metropolitan Baptist Church of Newark. Founded in 1938, Metropolitan Baptist has one of the largest congregations in Newark. It has over 80 ministries ranging from choirs and church services to ecommerce and educational development. David has effectively used the church to address the economic and social needs of his congregation and has worked to improve the livelihood of his community.

David is also a willing community activist. He divides his time with a number of social and religious organizations dedicated to making an impact on the community. He is enthusiastically involved in the actions of civil rights organizations, legal associations, and a fraternal order. In addition, David is the director and co-chair of 1,000 Churches Connected Initiative. His commitment to the community and involvement in its development is a testament to the importance of daily activism and individual responsibility.

Dr. Jefferson is a wonderful role model for generations of Americans. He effectively combines the intuitiveness and aggressiveness of the business community with the compassion

and care of the neighborhood. He is a dedicated leader to the economic and social fabric of this country and should be recognized for his role in shaping and developing the individual, the family, and the community.

Dr. Jefferson bestowed his sage advice on the graduating class of Grambling State University Sunday, May 22. He advised the graduates of his keys to success and reminded them of the importance of community service, determination, and commitment to their life. I would like to share with this body the thoughtful words of Dr. David Jefferson at the commencement of Grambling State University. I submit for the RECORD the prepared text of that commencement address.

“ACHIEVING YOUR DREAMS AND HOPES”;
GRAMBLING STATE UNIVERSITY COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS, MAY 22, 2005

To Dr. Judson, the president of this internationally renowned, remarkable, historical institution; Chairman of the Board of Trustees; faculty; administrators; staff; parents; friends; loved ones; and last but certainly not least the Graduating Class of 2005. When you travel and see the condition of our young people . . . to see those who have reached this level, they deserve a message from us that we are proud of their accomplishments.

Today represents a major milestone and one of significant meaning and enormous joy and fulfillment for all of us. For the graduates and their families, because your hard work, sacrifice and perseverance has finally yielded the first installment of your dividends. It's significant for this great institution because there is a spirit of revival and rebirth in the air at GSU.

I am excited and encouraged about what is happening at my Alma Mater. The campus is receiving a long overdue facelift, buildings are being constructed, dorms are being renovated, academic curriculums are being re-evaluated, and there is a vision and hope for tomorrow.

For me it's significant because I have been invited back to my roots, the place where I started my journey and received my foundation for higher academic training. This is the institution that equipped me and prepared me for my MBA work in finance at the University of Dayton. It is this institution that also equipped me to pursue legal studies at Capital Law School; a Master's of Theology at Drew University; and another master's degree from one of the top schools in the world—the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. It is this institution that paved the way for me to become the Pastor of the Metropolitan Baptist Church in Newark, N.J. which has nearly 6,000 members, and now the President and CEO of JNET Communications. After 34 years I have been invited back to give this commencement address and that's a marvelous blessing. So do not let anyone tell you Grambling is not a great school. Without this school I wouldn't be where I am today.

I am very humbled and emotional, but very excited. And I want to thank Dr. Judson for inviting me to address this class. I've received a number of prestigious honors in my life, many of which were absolutely outstanding. However, in my estimation, this tops them all. To stand here today is extremely significant to me. Everywhere I go young people constantly inquire, “Dr. Jefferson, how have you achieved such significant accomplishments and what advice would you give college students?” And that's what I want to focus on briefly: achieving your dreams and hopes.

The first thing I have to admit is it has not been easy—you really do have to learn how